

SENATE BILL No. 407

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-70.2.

Synopsis: E-scholars. Establishes the e-scholars program to provide computers and Internet access for certain students.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

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January 21, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 407

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-70.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2003]:

4 **Chapter 70.2. E-Scholars Program**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state**
6 **student assistance commission established by IC 20-12-21-4.**

7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "e-scholar eligible student"**
8 **means a student who meets the following requirements:**

9 (1) **The student is a resident of Indiana.**

10 (2) **The student is enrolled in grade 9 at a public or an**
11 **accredited nonpublic school.**

12 (3) **The student has been previously determined to be a**
13 **twenty-first century scholar by the commission.**

14 (4) **The student is enrolled in a school that is a member of the**
15 **web academy.**

16 (5) **The student attends a school that agrees to meet the**
17 **criteria established by the web academy.**



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1 **Sec. 3.** As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the e-scholars
2 fund established by section 7 of this chapter.

3 **Sec. 4.** As used in this chapter, "program" refers to the
4 e-scholars program established by section 6 of this chapter.

5 **Sec. 5.** As used in this chapter, "web academy" refers to the
6 joint program of the intelenet commission and the department of
7 education that provides Internet technology, training, support and
8 hands-on experience for students, teachers, and families.

9 **Sec. 6.** The e-scholars program is established to do the
10 following:

11 (1) Reduce the number of students who withdraw from high
12 school before graduation.

13 (2) Increase the number of students who are prepared with
14 technological skills to enter the workforce after graduation.

15 (3) Increase the number of students entering institutions of
16 higher learning.

17 (4) Encourage eligible students to attend institutions of higher
18 learning by reducing the financial burden on the eligible
19 students and their families.

20 (5) Decrease drug and alcohol abuse by encouraging higher
21 educational pursuits.

22 (6) Increase individual economic vitality.

23 (7) Improve the overall quality of life for many residents.

24 (8) Provide a resource for the entire family to support
25 educational efforts.

26 **Sec. 7.** (a) The e-scholars fund is established to provide the
27 financial resources necessary to award the computers and Internet
28 access under the program.

29 (b) The commission shall administer the fund by delegating
30 implementation and operation of the program to the web academy.

31 (c) The fund consists of:

32 (1) gifts to the fund;

33 (2) appropriations from the general assembly;

34 (3) grants, including grants from private entities; and

35 (4) a combination of the resources described in subdivisions
36 (1), (2), and (3).

37 (d) The expenses of administering and implementing the fund
38 shall be paid from money in the fund.

39 (e) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
40 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
41 manner as other public funds may be invested.

42 (f) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not

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1 revert to the state general fund.

2 (g) Money in the fund is appropriated continuously for the
3 purpose stated in subsection (a).

4 Sec. 8. Money in the fund shall be used to provide computers to
5 e-scholars.

6 Sec. 9. If an eligible e-scholar violates an agreement entered into
7 under this chapter, the eligible e-scholar is disqualified from
8 further consideration as an e-scholar recipient under this chapter.

9 Sec. 10. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to
10 implement this chapter, including:

11 (1) rules regarding the establishment of appeals procedures
12 for individuals who become disqualified from the program
13 under section 9 of this chapter; and

14 (2) notwithstanding section 2 of this chapter, rules that may
15 include students who are in grades other than grade 9 as
16 eligible students.

17 Sec. 11. The commission shall do the following:

18 (1) Prepare a statistical report that describes awards to
19 e-scholars on a fiscal year basis.

20 (2) Deliver the report described in subdivision (1) to the
21 legislative council before August 15 of the year following the
22 fiscal year covered in the report.

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